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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 000068

SENSITIVE
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DEPT FOR NEA/ELA
DEPT PLEASE PASS TO USTR/SFRANCESKI AND GSTRICKLER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/12/2020
TAGS: [ECON](#) [EG](#) [ETRD](#) [PGOV](#) [IS](#)
SUBJECT: GOE UNWILLING TO BUDGE ON QIZ APPROVAL

REF: 09CAIRO2381 Classified By: Minister-Counselor for Political and Economic Affairs Donald A. Blome for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

- 1.(C) Key points: -The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) remains opposed to USG approval of Qualifying Industrial Zones (QIZ's) on a factor
- 2.(C) On January 6, EconOffs met with Mohamed Ashour, the head of the Qualifying Industrial Zones (QIZ) Unit in the Ministry of Trade and Indus
- 3.(C) Ashour presented EconOffs with a letter for Assistant United States Trade Representative (AUSTR) Gail Strickler from MOTI Senior Advisor
- 4.(C) Ashour refused to engage on approving a list of currently producing factories in Minya and Beni Suef. Ashour said that the QIZ Unit)- ur
- 5.(C) Comment: In labeling the deceptive Minya and Beni Suef factory information submitted by his predecessor a "mistake," Ashour made it clear
- 6.(C) Action Request: In Post's view, there is limited progress to be made while the USG and GOE are talking past one another. We recommend the